

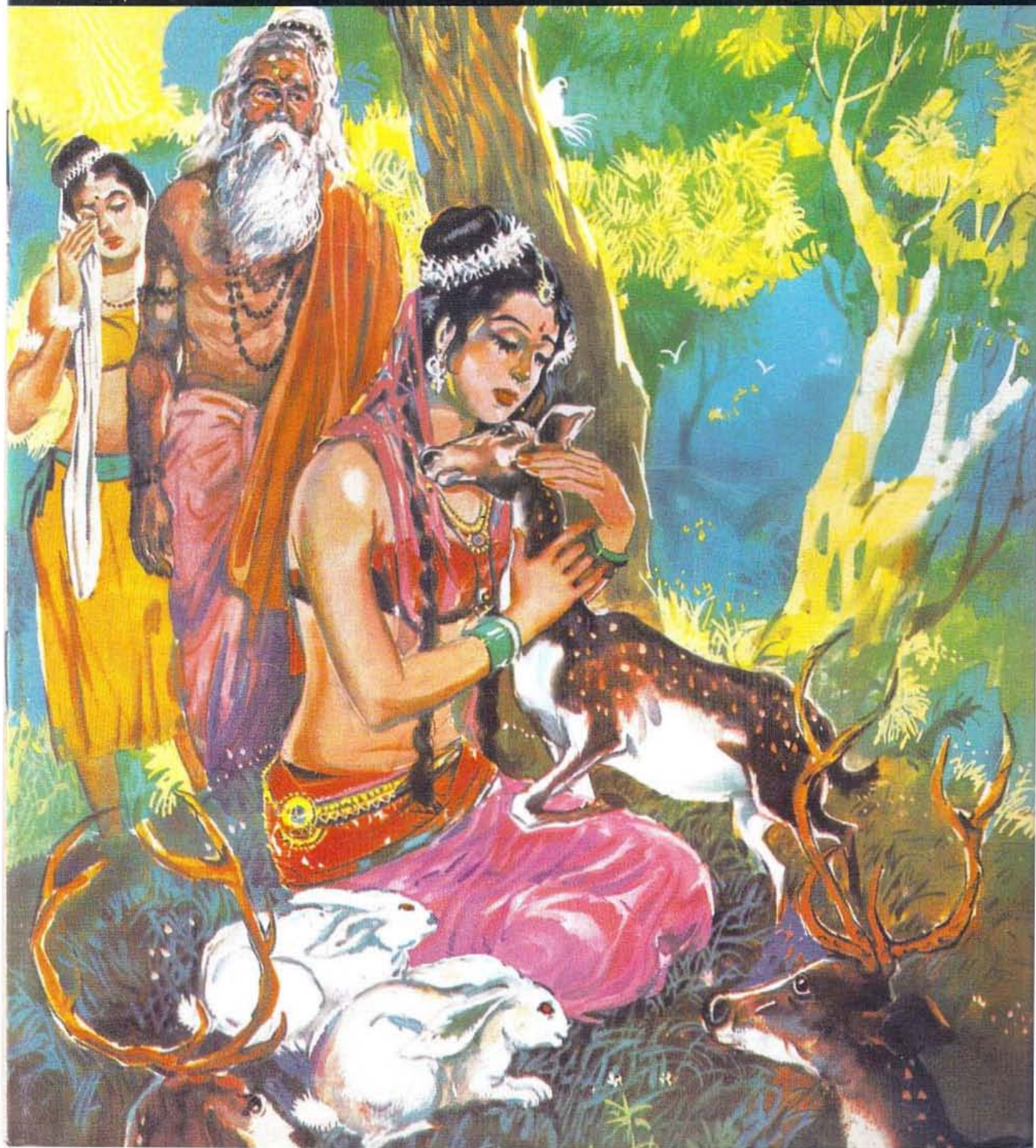


SHAKUNTALA

THE FORGOTTEN WIFE

Vol 530 | Rs 35

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Script

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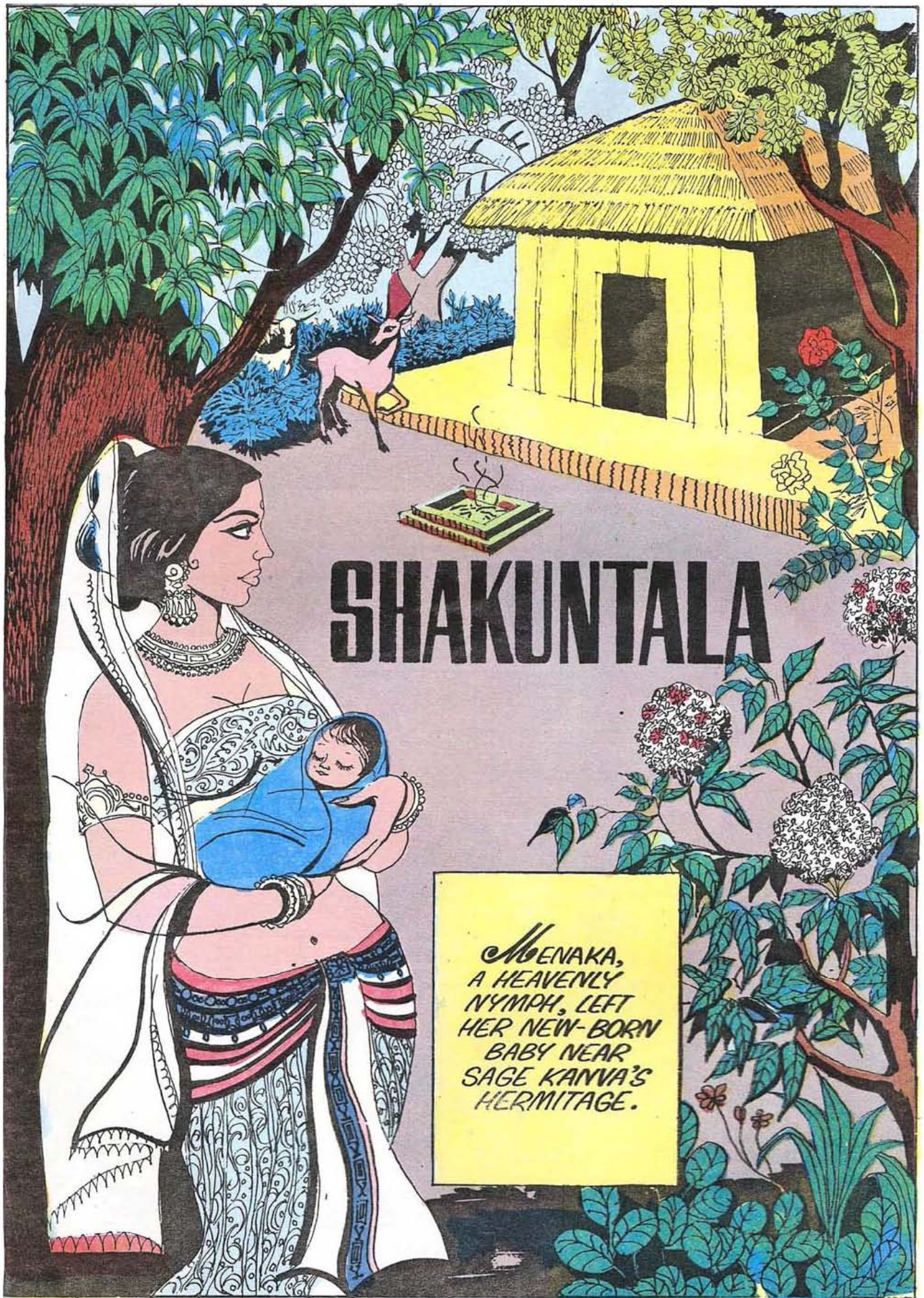
Editor

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Cover illustration by: Pratap Mulick

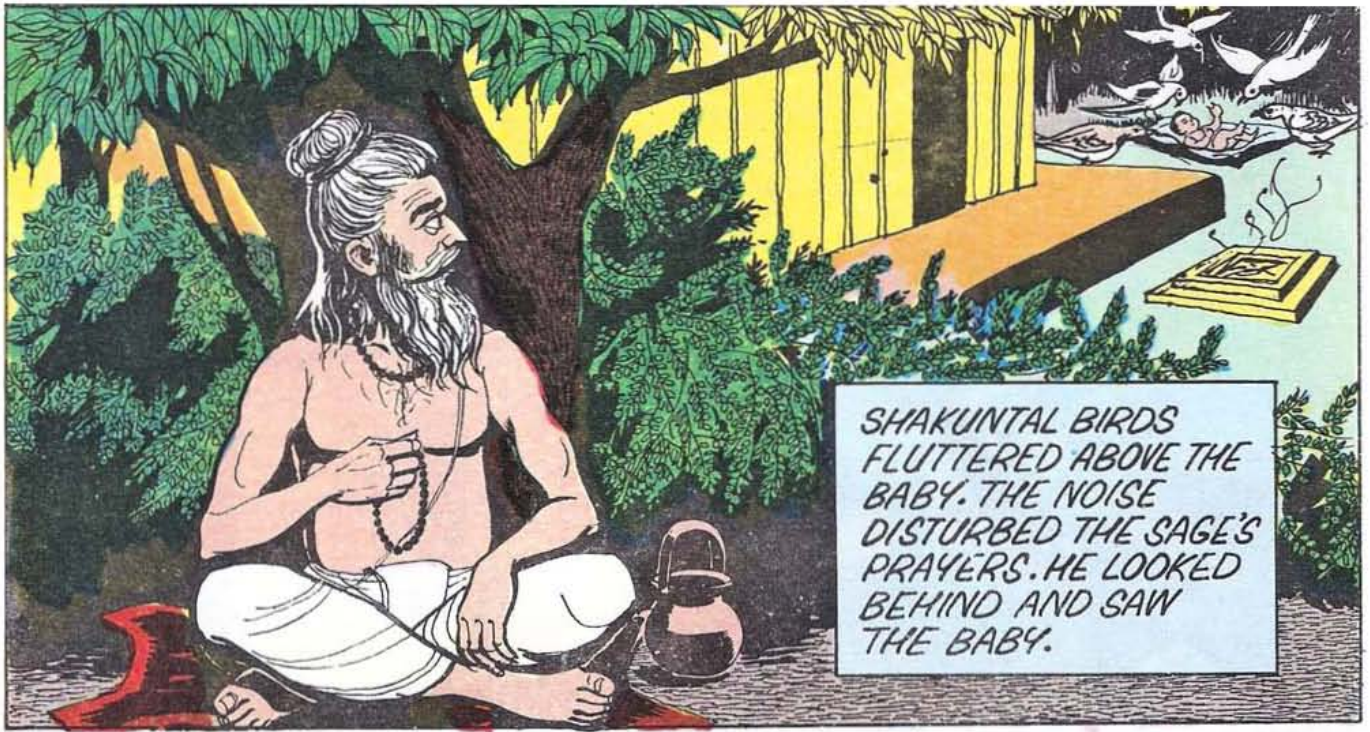
Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd., 1970, Reprinted May 2009, ISBN 81-89999-48-6
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 14 Marthanda, 4th floor,
84 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Mumbai 400 018. India



SHAKUNTALA

*MEENAKA,
A HEAVENLY
NYMPH, LEFT
HER NEW-BORN
BABY NEAR
SAGE KANVA'S
HERMITAGE.*



SHAKUNTAL BIRDS
FLUTTERED ABOVE THE
BABY. THE NOISE
DISTURBED THE SAGE'S
PRAYERS. HE LOOKED
BEHIND AND SAW
THE BABY.



THE SAGE PICKED IT UP.

I SHALL ADOPT
THE BABY-GIRL
AND CALL HER
SHAKUNTALA.



THE BABY GREW UP
AND MADE FRIENDS
WITH THE ANIMALS
AROUND HER.

SHAKUNTALA, NOW A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, LED A USEFUL LIFE WITH HER FRIENDS PRIYAMVADA AND ANASUYA.

PRIYAMVADA, YOU ARE ALWAYS TEASING ANASUYA.

YOU ARE ALWAYS BUSY SHAKUNTALA, LET US HAVE SOME FUN.



ONE DAY, YOUNG KING DUSHYANT OF HASTINAPUR, CAME TO THAT FOREST TO HUNT.

LOOK! THERE IS A FINE STAG JUST AHEAD OF US.

WE WILL GO LIKE THE WIND AND HUNT IT DOWN.



I SHALL HUNT NO MORE, BUT GO FOR THE BLESSING OF THE SAGE.

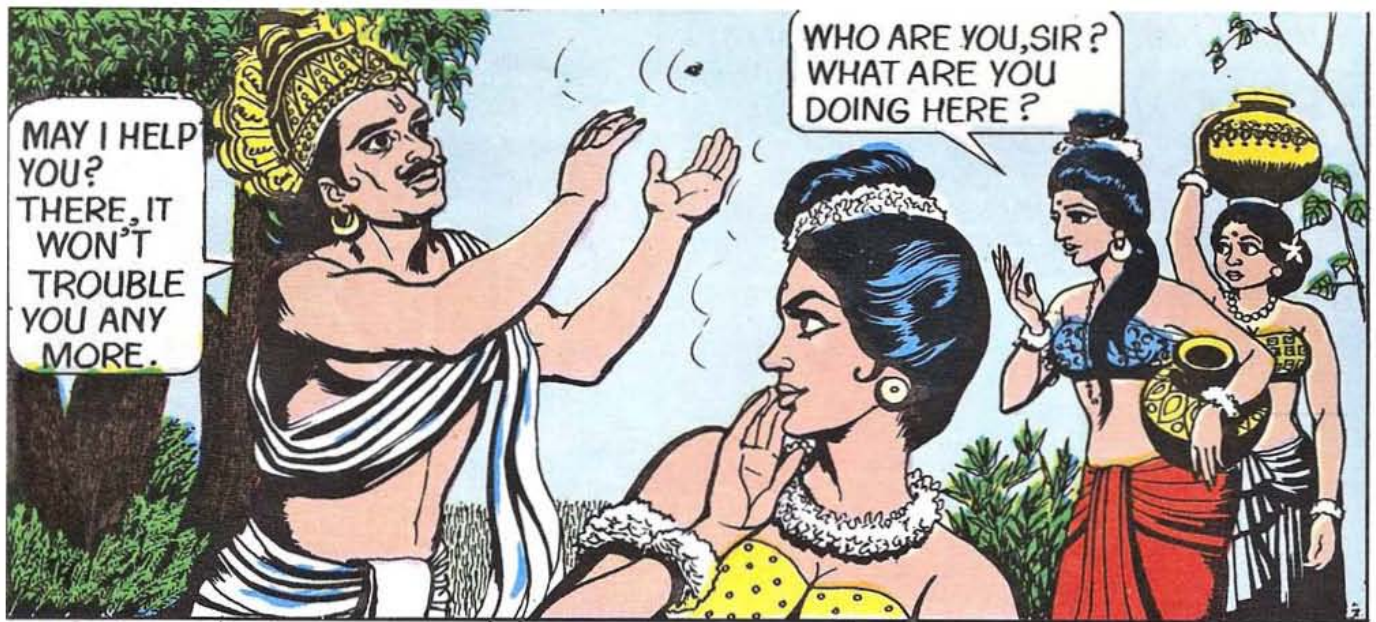
STOP! THE FAWN BELONGS TO SAGE KANVA.



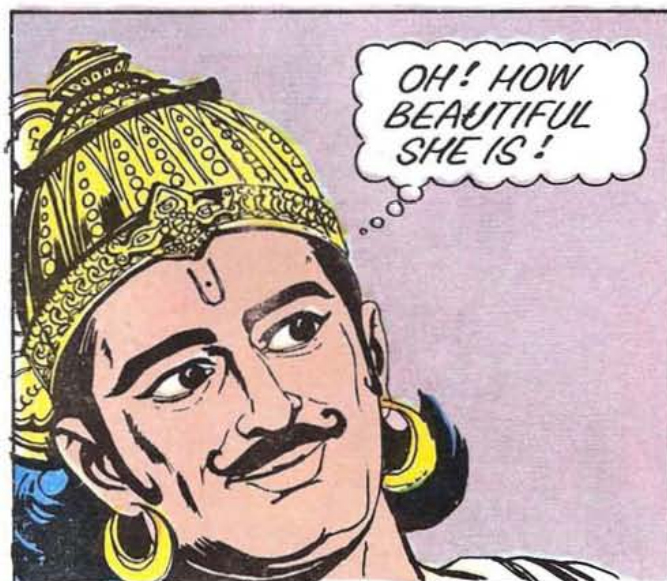


WHEN THE KING HEARD VOICES, HE HID BEHIND A TREE.



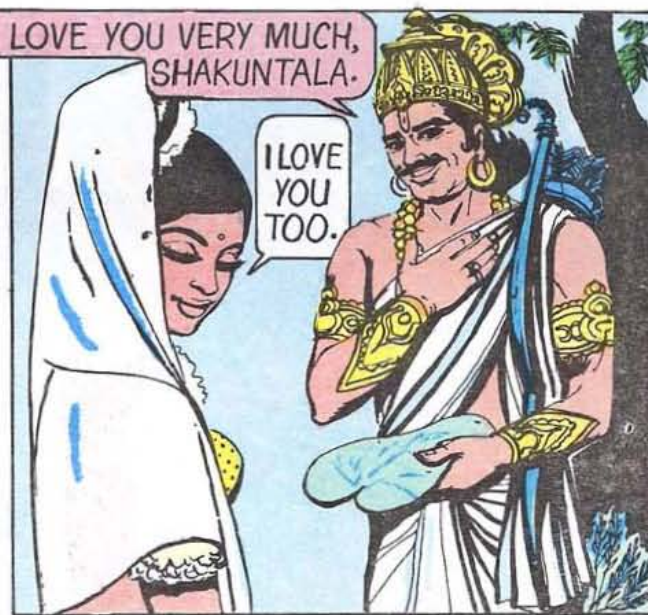
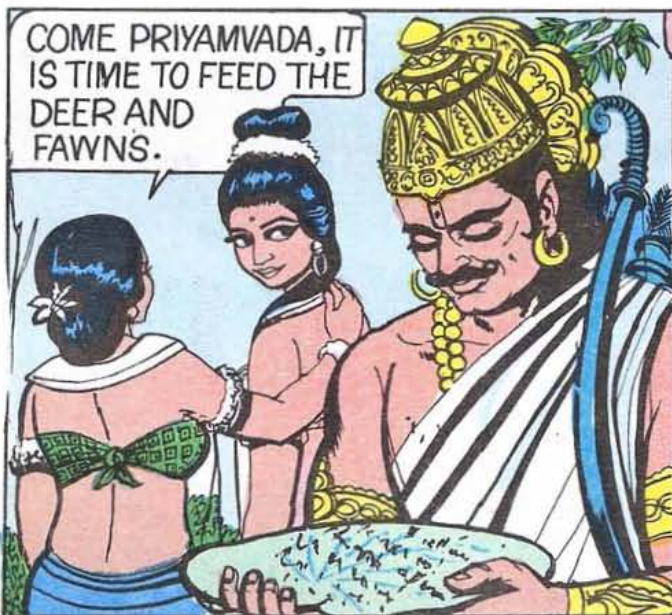


THE RING HAD THE KING'S SEAL ON IT.







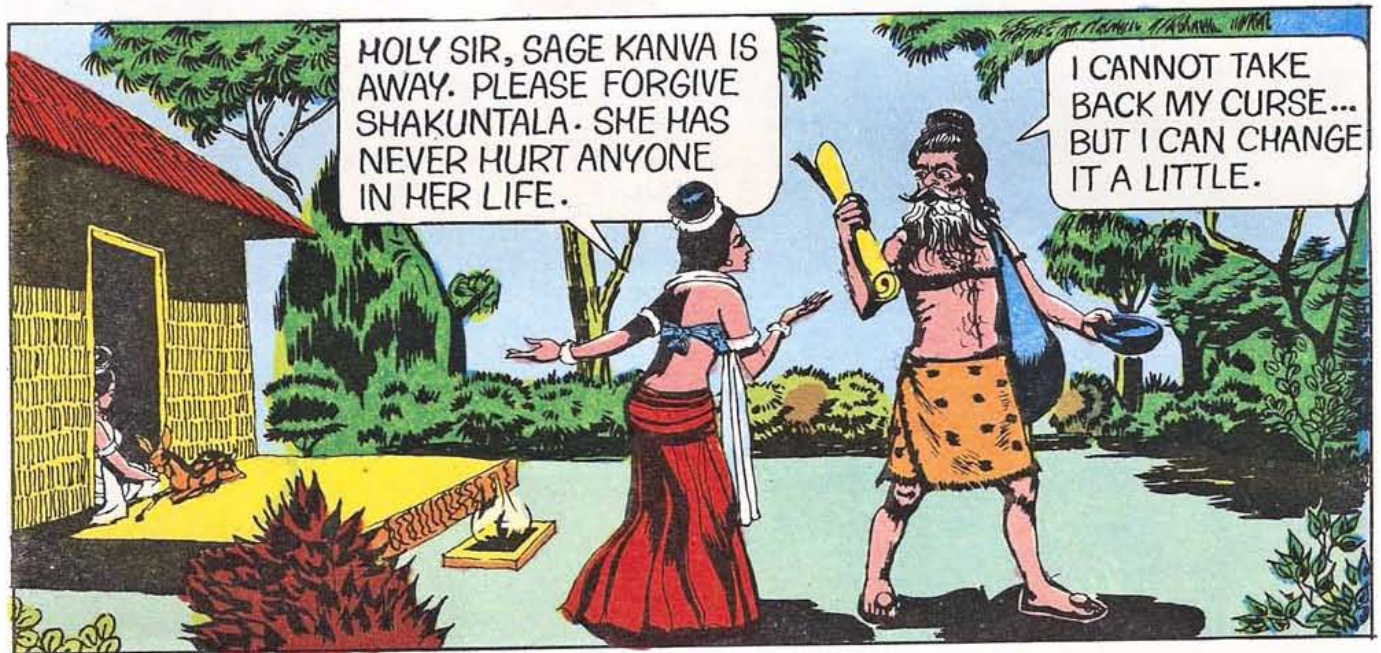
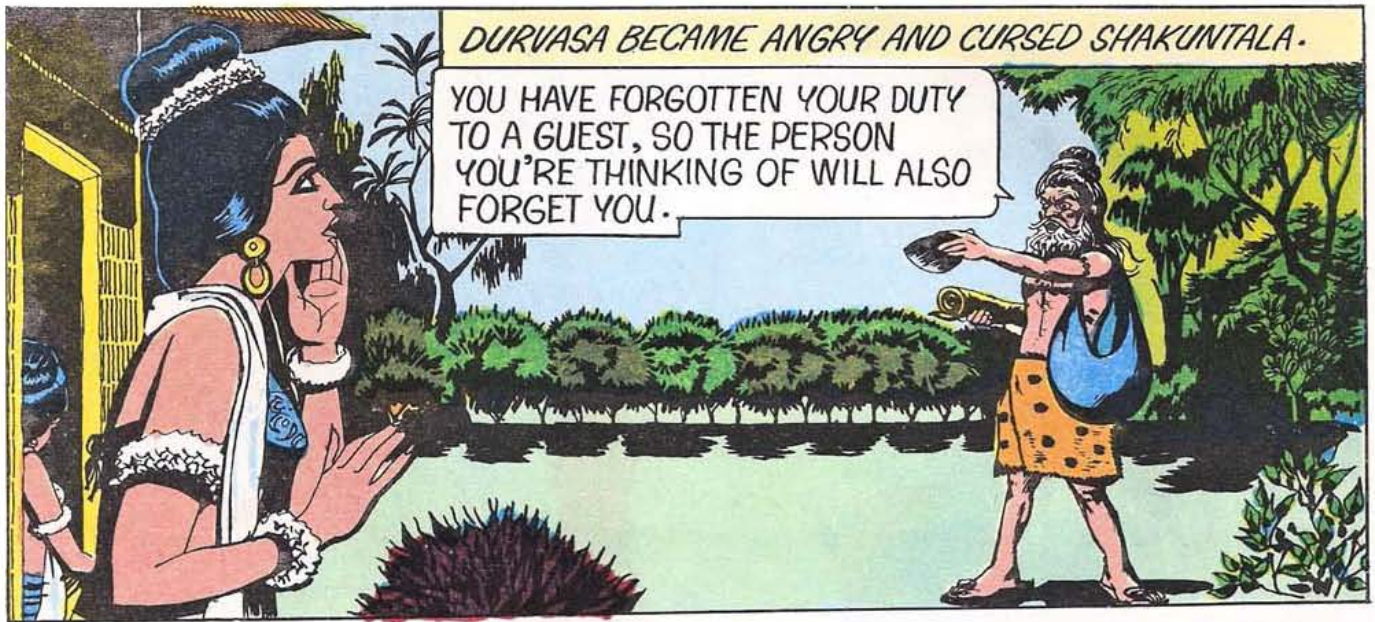


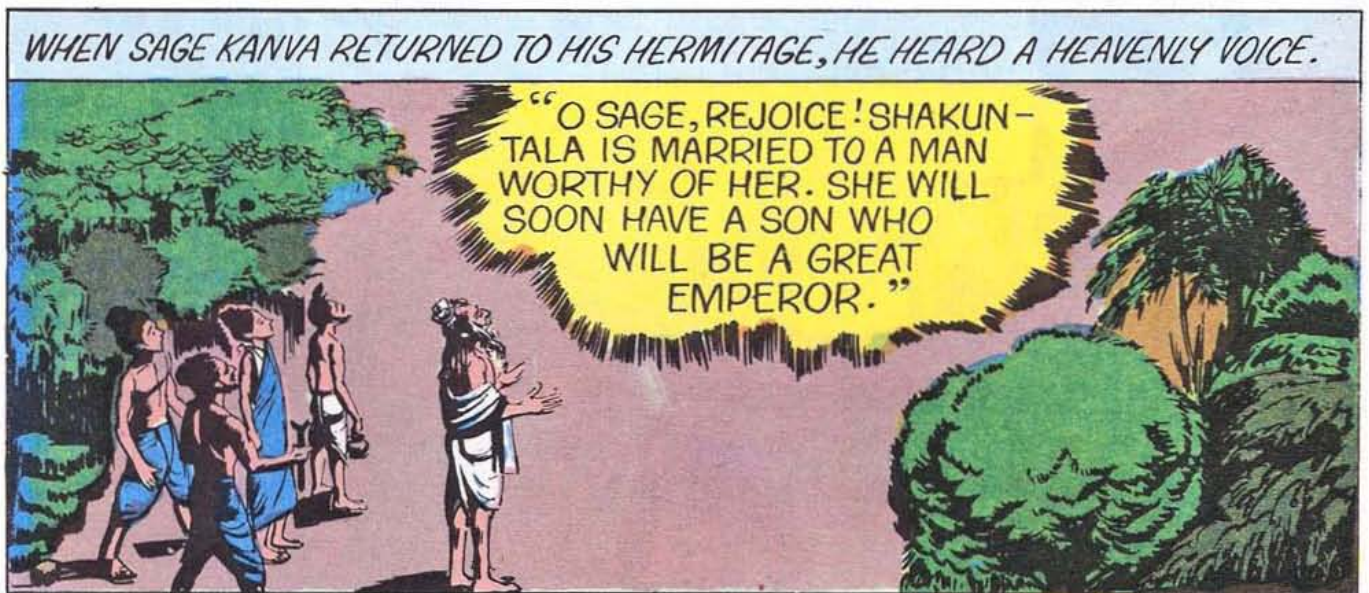
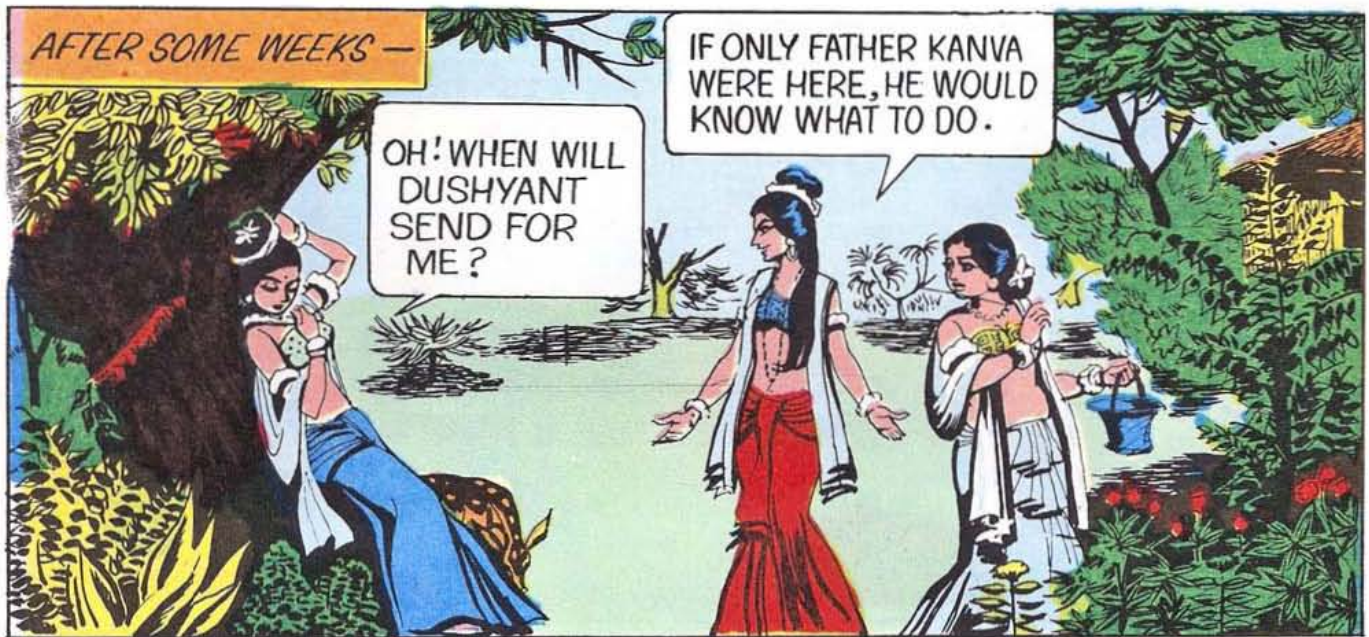
A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER CAME.



SOMETIME LATER, SAGE DURVASA PAID A VISIT TO THE HERMITAGE. SHAKUNTALA WAS THINKING ABOUT HER HUSBAND.







GAUTAMI, AN OLD LADY, WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO SHAKUNTALA. SHE MADE PREPARATIONS FOR SHAKUNTALA TO LEAVE.

OUR SHAKUNTALA DOES NOT HAVE CLOTHES AND JEWELS FIT FOR A BRIDE.

THE GODS ALWAYS HELP THE GOOD.



SUDDENLY A MIRACLE HAPPENED.

OH LOOK! WHAT LOVELY CLOTHES ARE HERE!

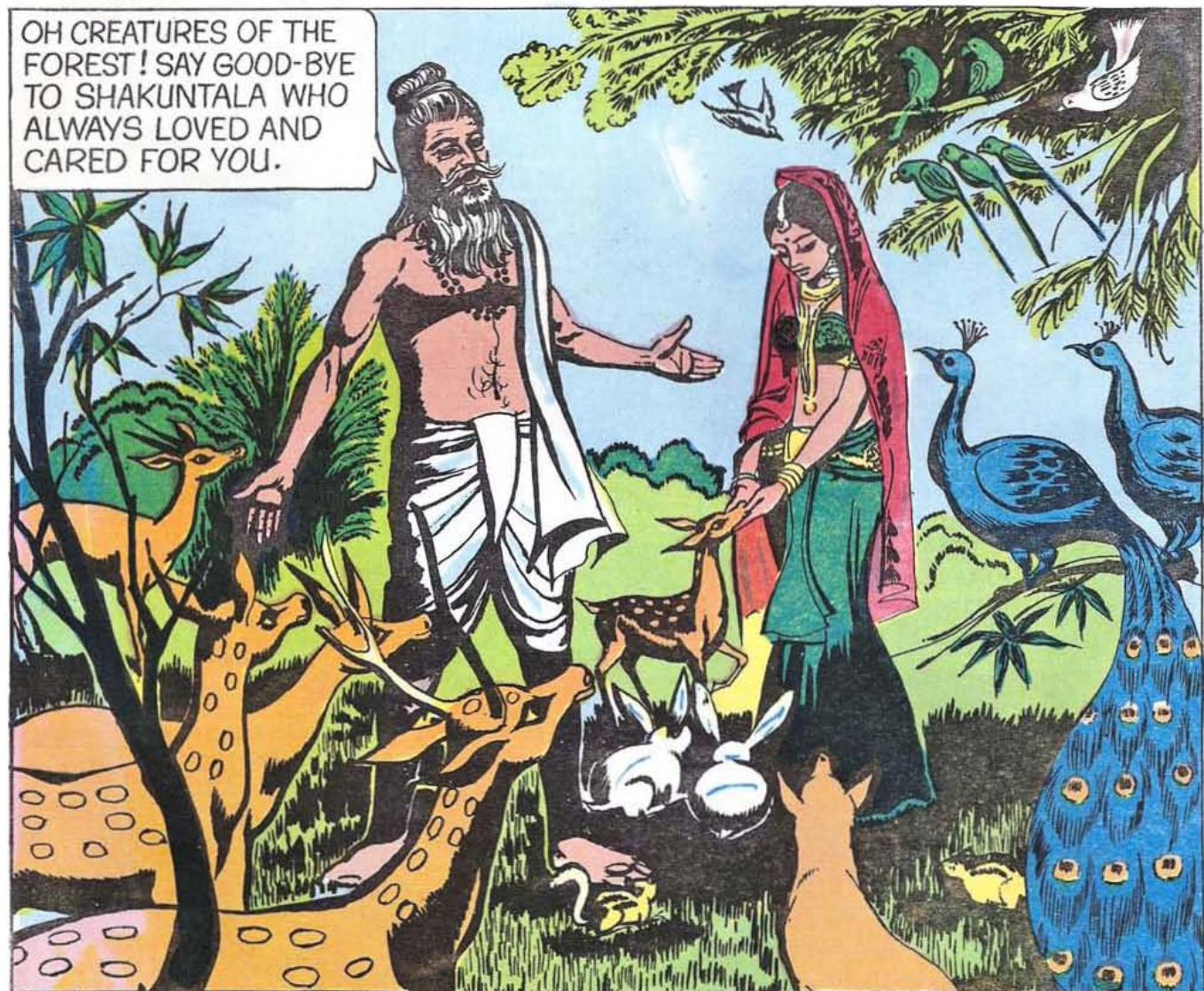
ON EVERY BRANCH THERE'S A SHINING JEWEL.



OH SHAKUNTALA, HOW LOVELY YOU LOOK IN THESE CLOTHES.

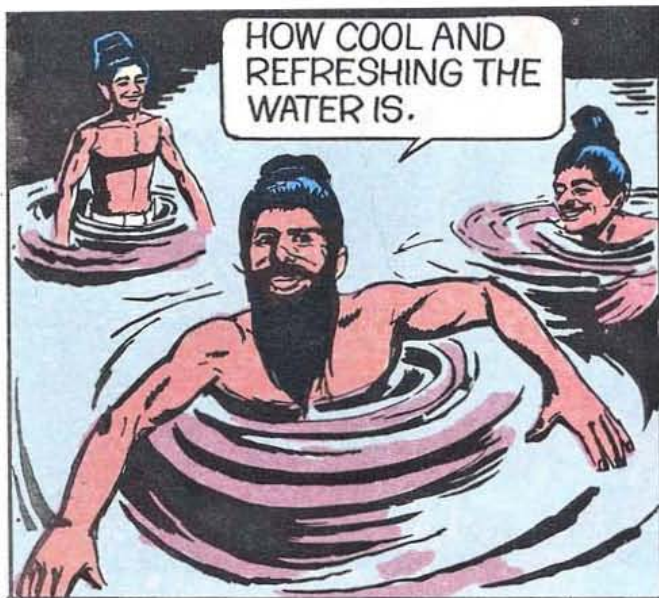
NOW THAT YOU WILL BE LIVING IN A PALACE, YOU WILL FORGET YOUR POOR FRIENDS.



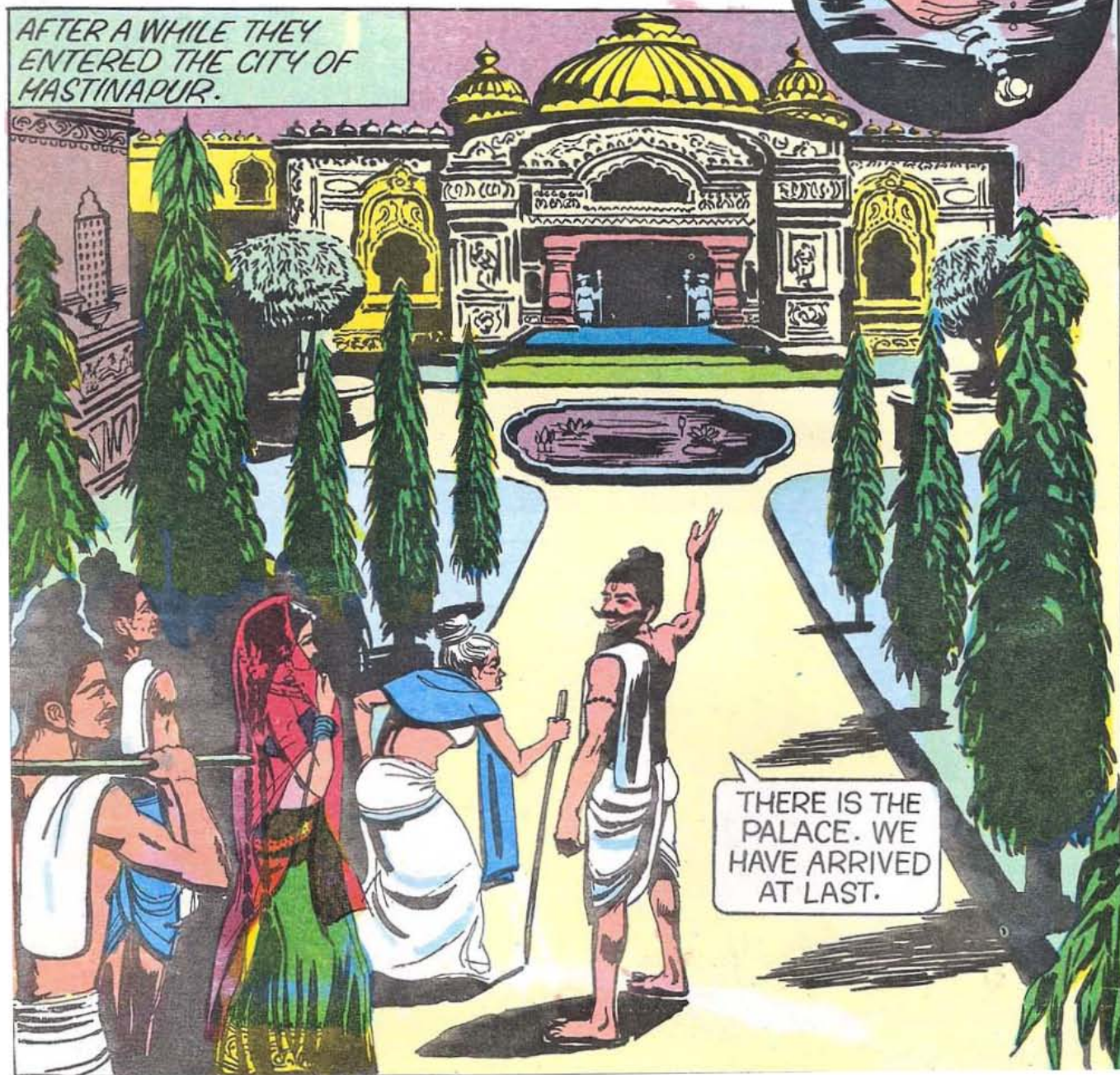


FATHER KANVA WAS ALSO SAD. THE TREES SHED TEARS IN THE FORM OF
LEAVES. PEACOCKS STOPPED DANCING AND THE DEER FORGOT TO EAT.





AFTER A WHILE THEY ENTERED THE CITY OF HASTINAPUR.



DURVASA'S CURSE HAD WORKED. THE KING HAD FORGOTTEN SHAKUNTALA.

I WONDER WHAT THEY WANT WITH ME. SHOW THEM IN.

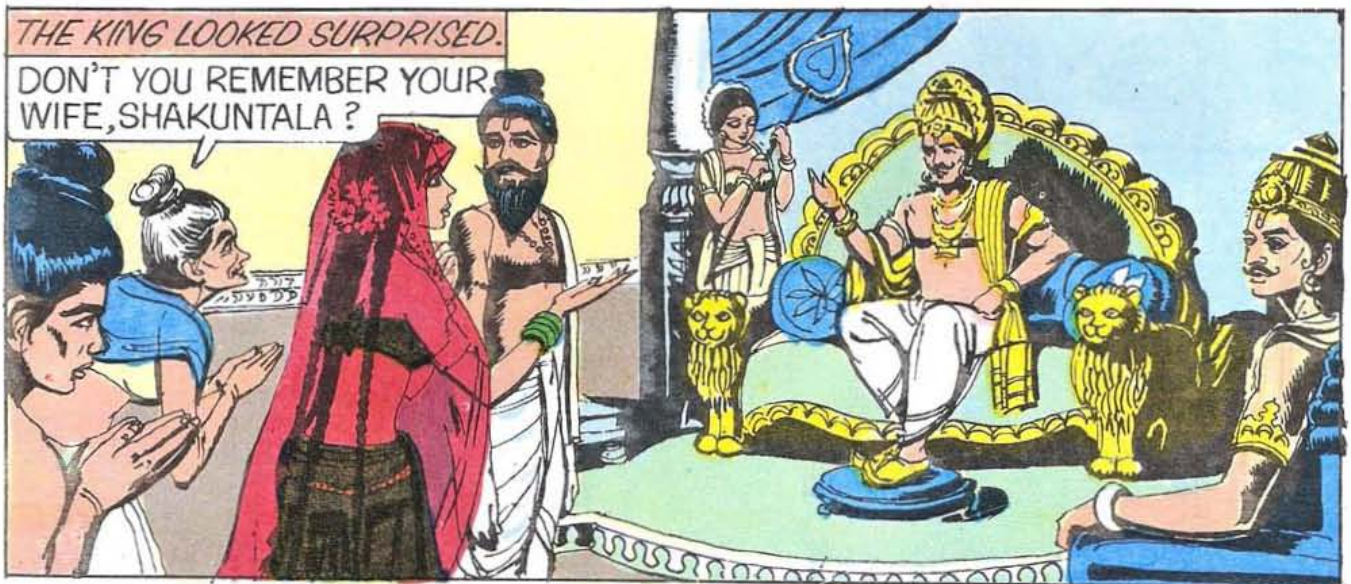
YOUR MAJESTY, SOME INMATES OF SAGE KANVA'S ASHRAM HAVE COME TO SEE YOU.

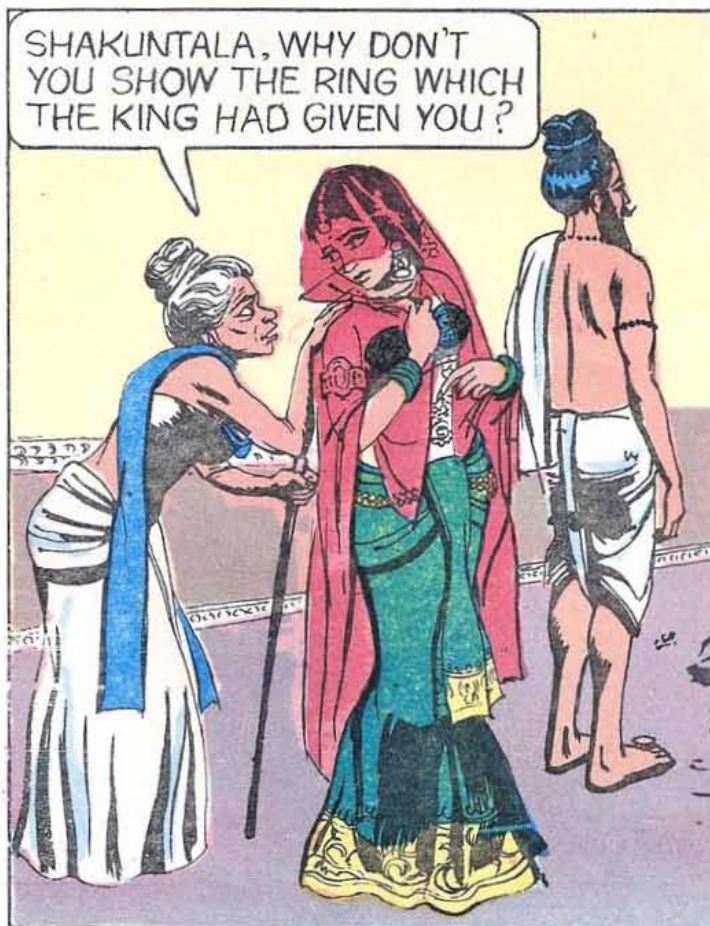
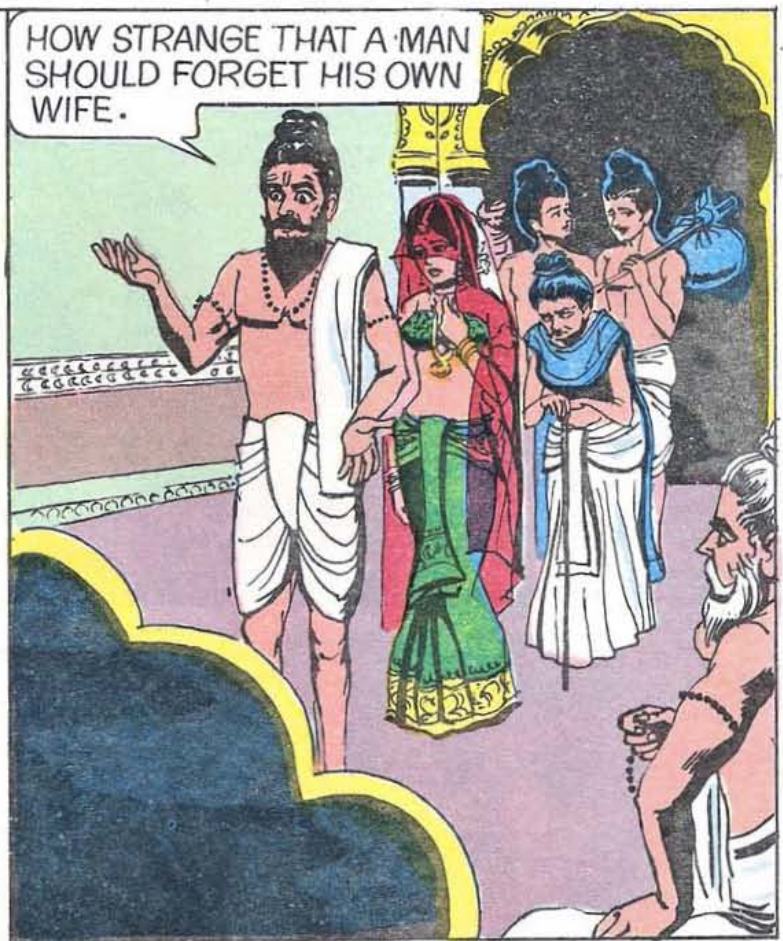


SAGE KANVA GREETES YOU AND HAS SENT SHAKUNTALA, YOUR WIFE, WHO WILL SOON BE A MOTHER.



THE KING LOOKED SURPRISED. DON'T YOU REMEMBER YOUR WIFE, SHAKUNTALA?





THE RING MUST HAVE FALLEN
SOMEWHERE. LET US LOOK FOR IT.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
TALKING ABOUT.



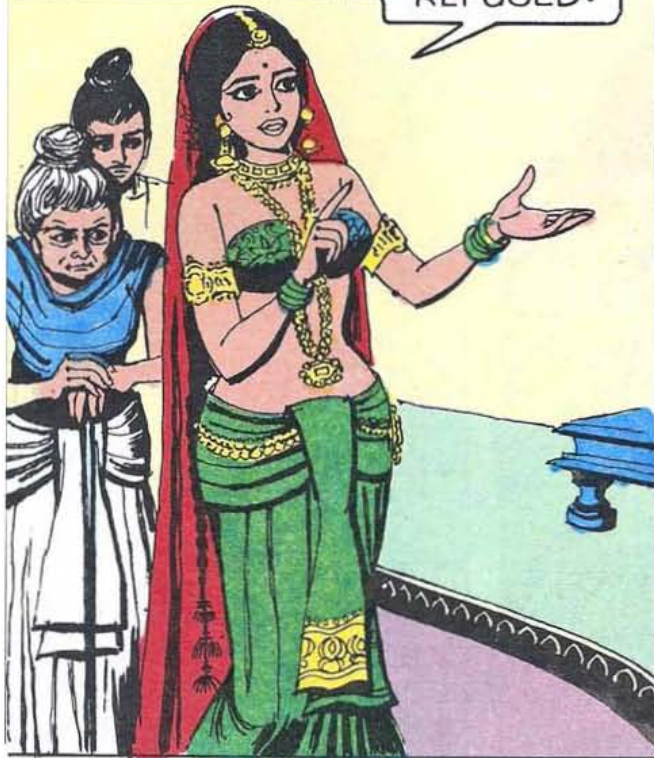
SHAKUNTALA, RAISE
YOUR VEIL. THE KING
WILL SURELY REMEMBER
YOU WHEN HE SEES
YOUR FACE.



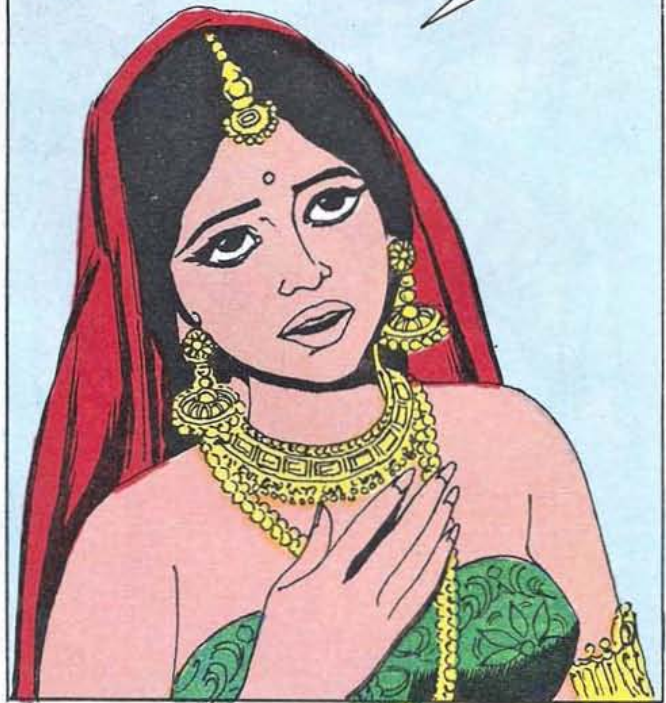
YOUR FACE IS
INDEED LOVELY
BUT I HAVE
NEVER SEEN
YOU BEFORE.



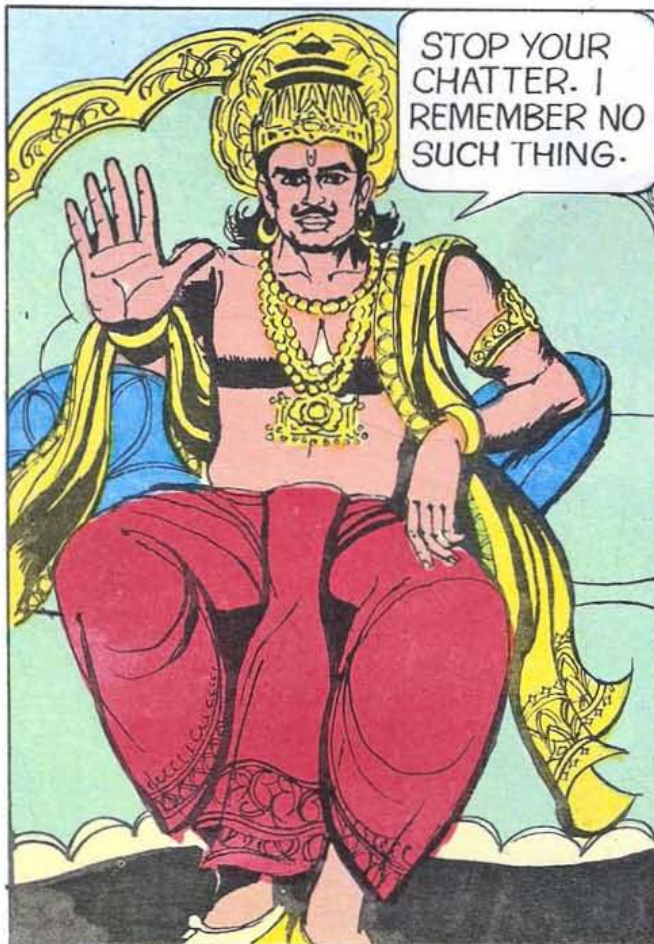
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW ONE DAY
YOU COLLECTED RAIN-WATER IN A
LOTUS FLOWER AND GAVE IT TO
MY PET FAWN TO DRINK BUT SHE
REFUSED.



YET WHEN I OFFERED IT, SHE DRANK
IT GLADLY. SO YOU SAID— YOU ARE
BOTH CHILDREN OF THE FOREST
AND TRUST EACH OTHER... AND...

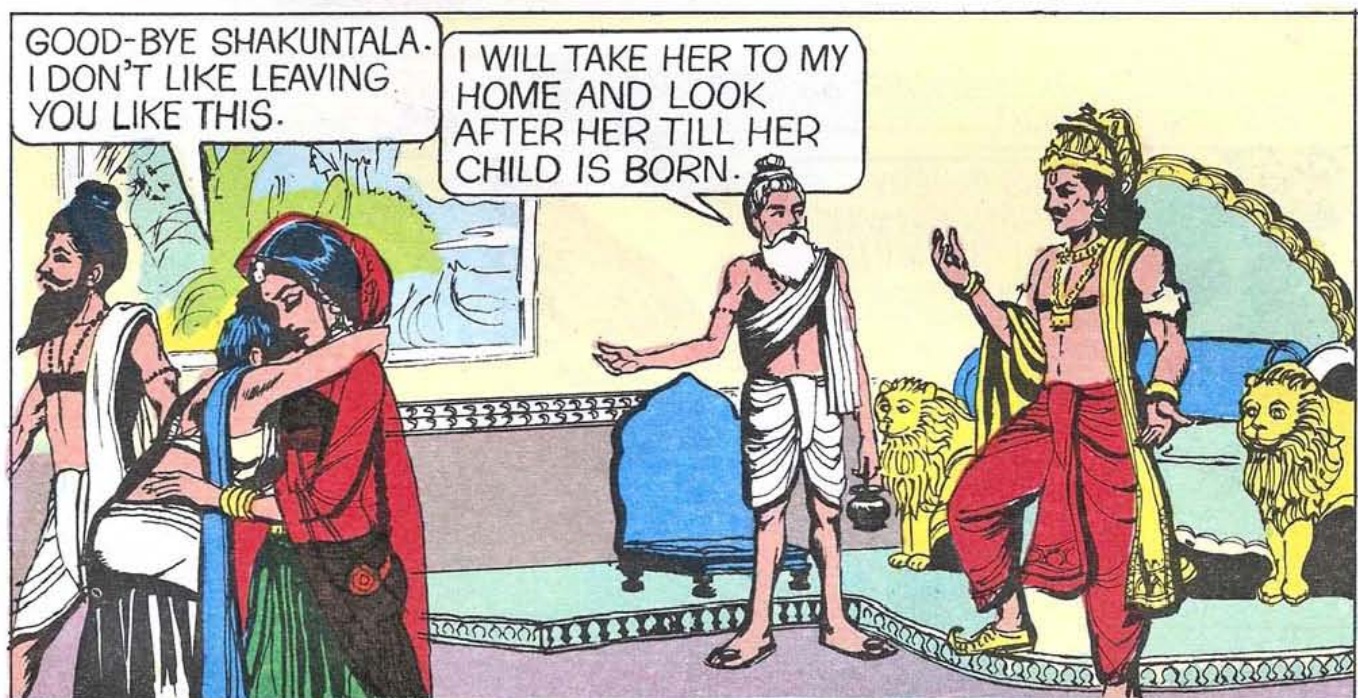


STOP YOUR
CHATTER. I
REMEMBER NO
SUCH THING.

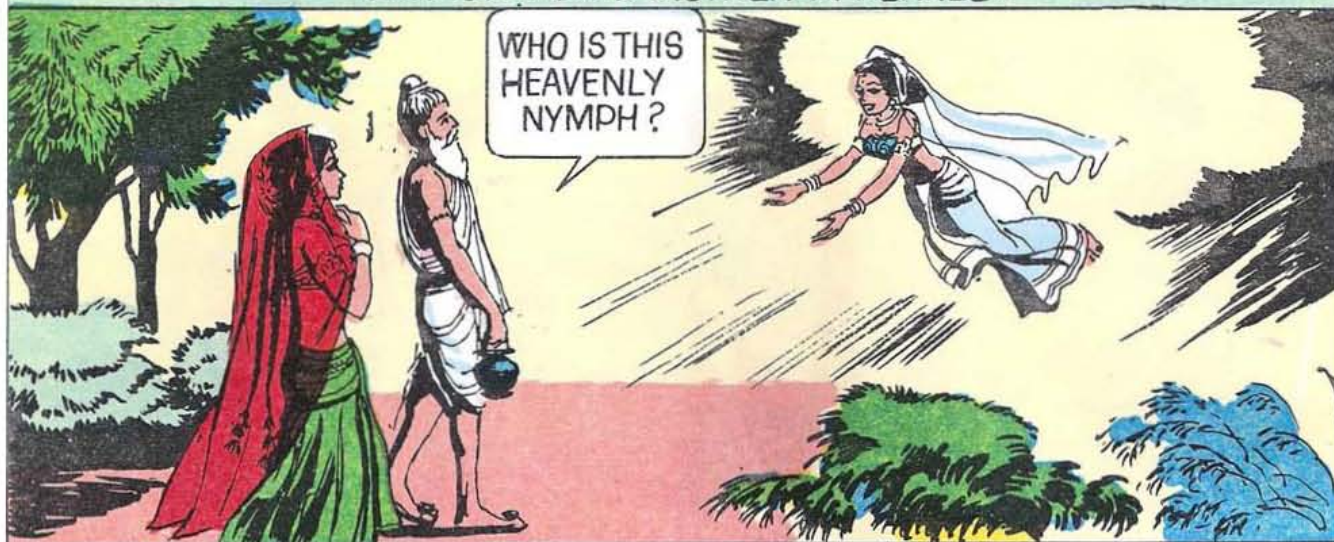


OH DUSHYANT! IT IS WICKED
OF YOU TO DISOWN YOUR
OWN WIFE.





SUDDENLY THERE WAS A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SKY.
SHAKUNTALA'S MOTHER APPEARED.



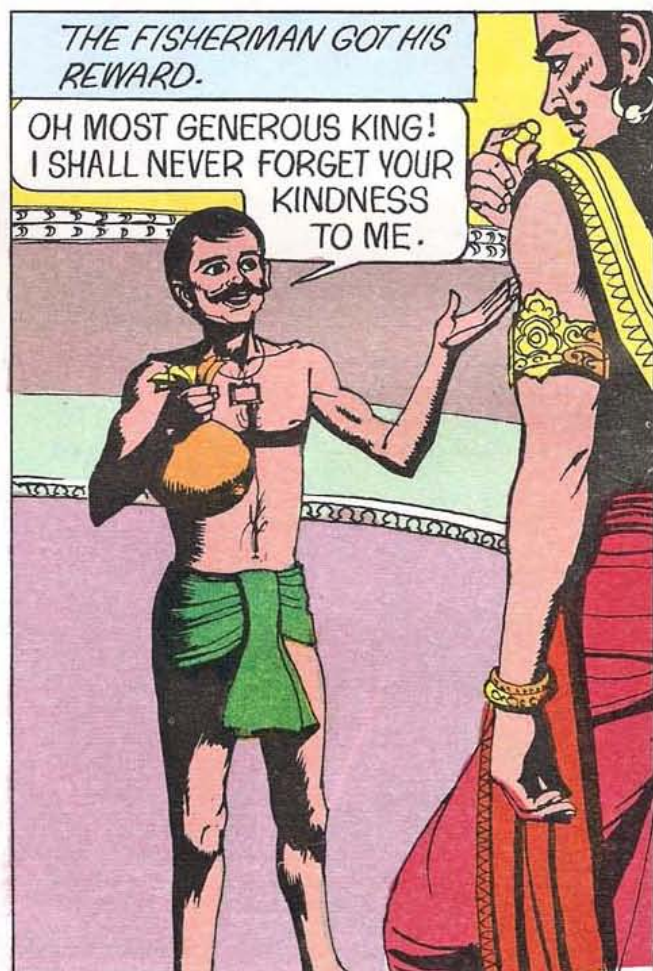
THE NYMPH CARRIED AWAY SHAKUNTALA INTO THE CLOUDS.



A FEW DAYS LATER A FISHERMAN WAS ARRESTED IN THE BAZAAR.

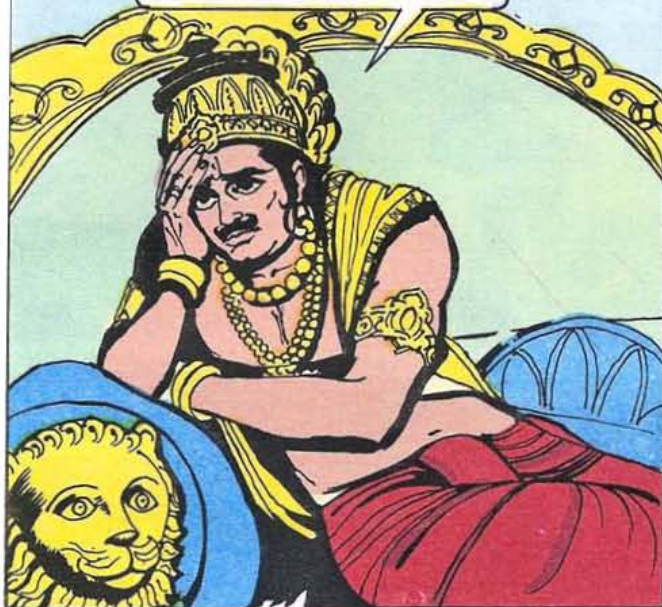




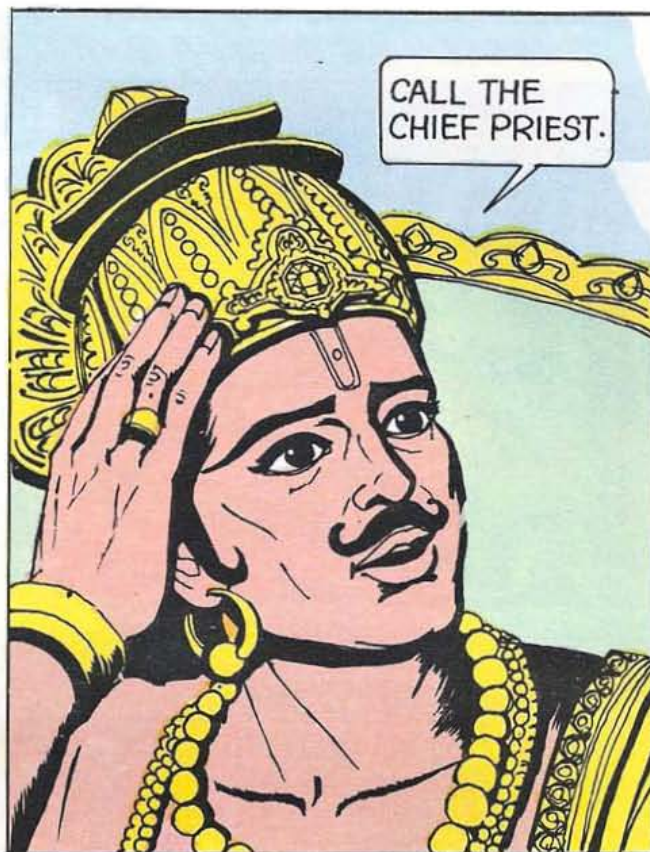


THE KING WAS VERY SAD.

OH SHAKUNTALA ! HOW
CRUELLY I HAVE
TREATED YOU - HOW
COULD I FORGET YOU ?



CALL THE
CHIEF PRIEST.



WHERE IS MY WIFE
SHAKUNTALA ? WHO
WILL BRING MY
BELOVED BACK TO ME ?

A NYMPH CARRIED
HER AWAY AND
SHE IS LOST
FOR EVER.



TO LESSEN HIS GRIEF, THE KING PAINTED SHAKUNTALA'S PICTURE.



FOR A FEW YEARS THE KING LED A QUIET LIFE THINKING OF SHAKUNTALA ALL THE TIME. ONE DAY—



A TERRIBLE WAR WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN THE DEMONS AND THE GODS.



THE GODS WON THE WAR AND DUSHYANT CAME BACK TO EARTH IN MATALI'S FLYING CHARIOT.

WHAT LOVELY SCENERY!
HOW HAPPY THE CREATURES OF THE EARTH LOOK. I ALONE AM UNHAPPY.



GOOD-BYE DUSHYANT!
MAY THE GODS REWARD YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY.



WHERE AM I? THIS IS A STRANGE PLACE WHICH I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.





THE KING HEARD A CHILD'S VOICE.

I WONDER WHO THIS CHILD IS. WHAT IS HE DOING WITH A LION CUB?

OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND LET ME COUNT YOUR TEETH.



TWO WOMEN CAME FROM BEHIND THE TREES.

YOU ARE A NAUGHTY LITTLE FELLOW. LET THE CUB GO OR THE LIONESS WILL COME AND KILL YOU.

I WILL GIVE YOU A NICE TOY IF YOU LET THE CUB GO.



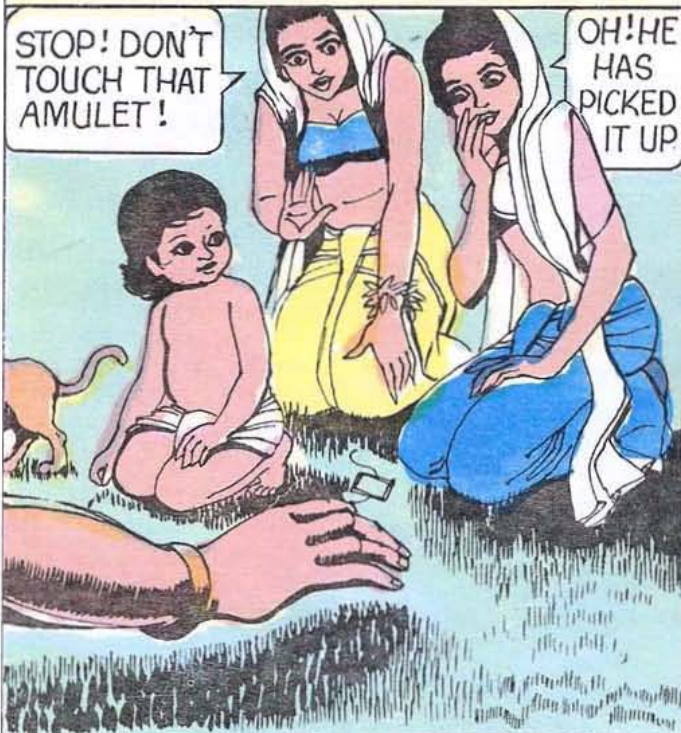
WHAT A BRAVE AND HAND-SOME BOY HE IS!

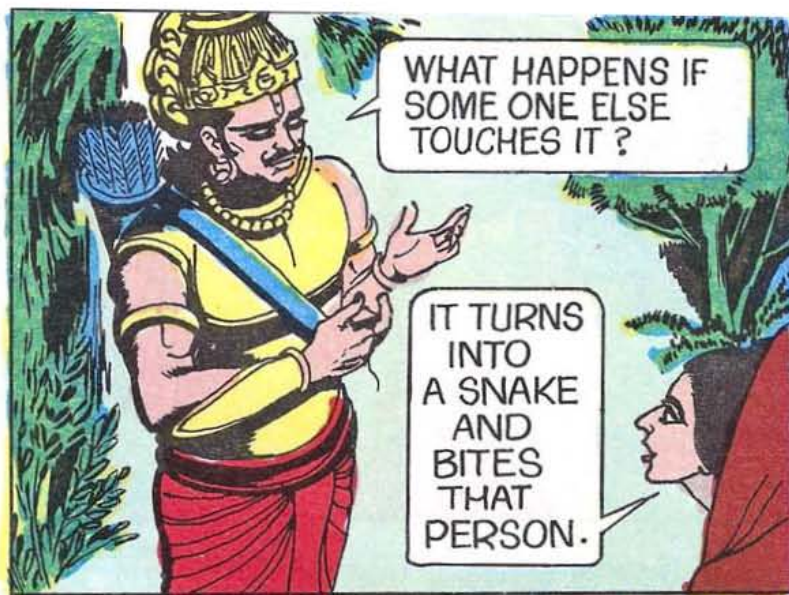
GIVE ME THE TOY FIRST AND THEN WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THE CUB.

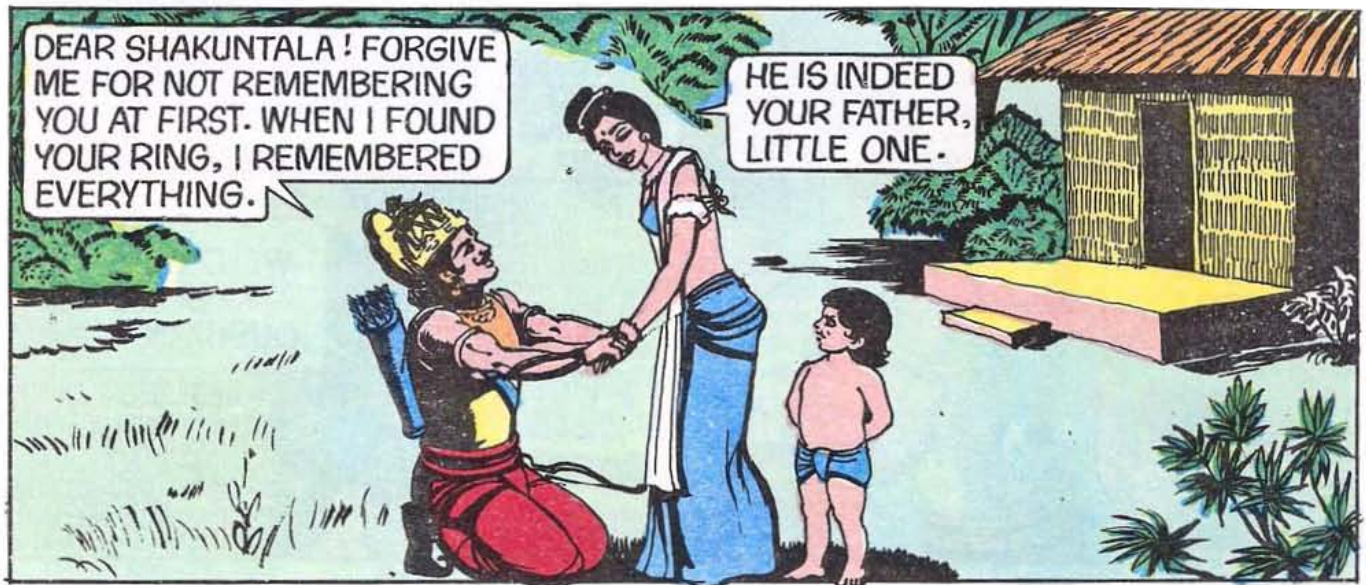
STRANGE! VERY STRANGE!

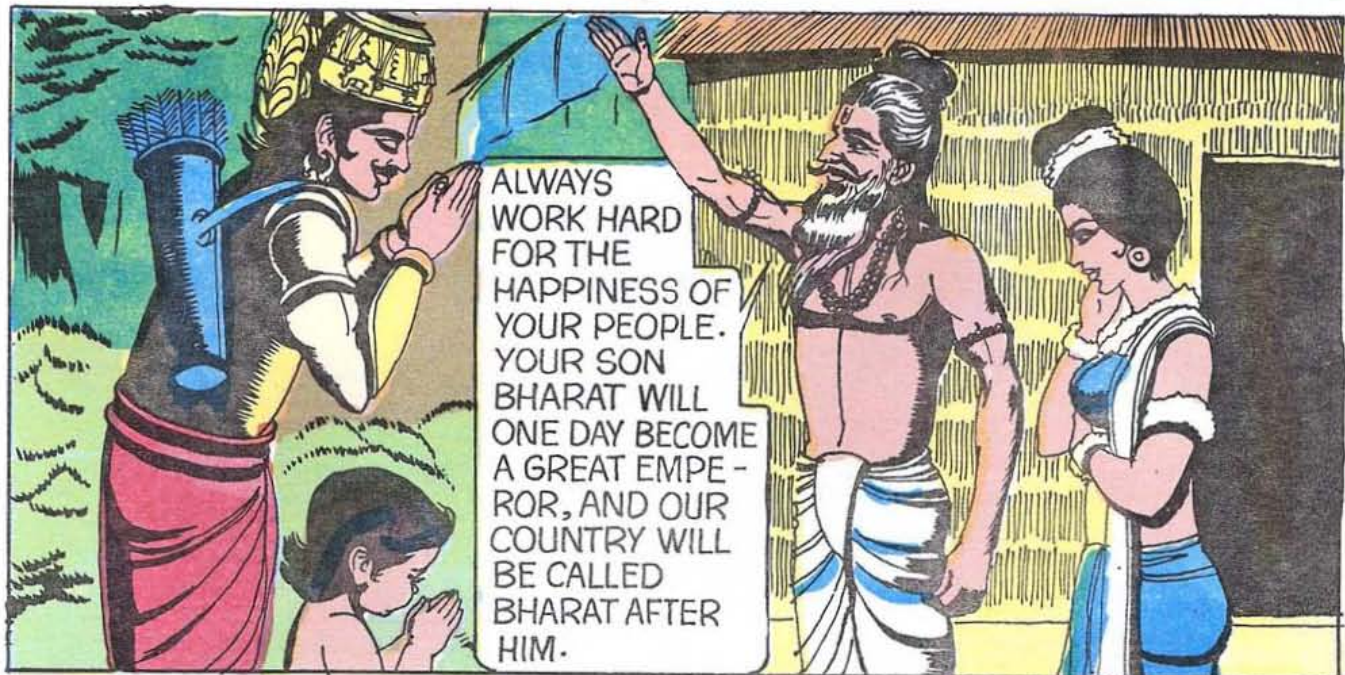
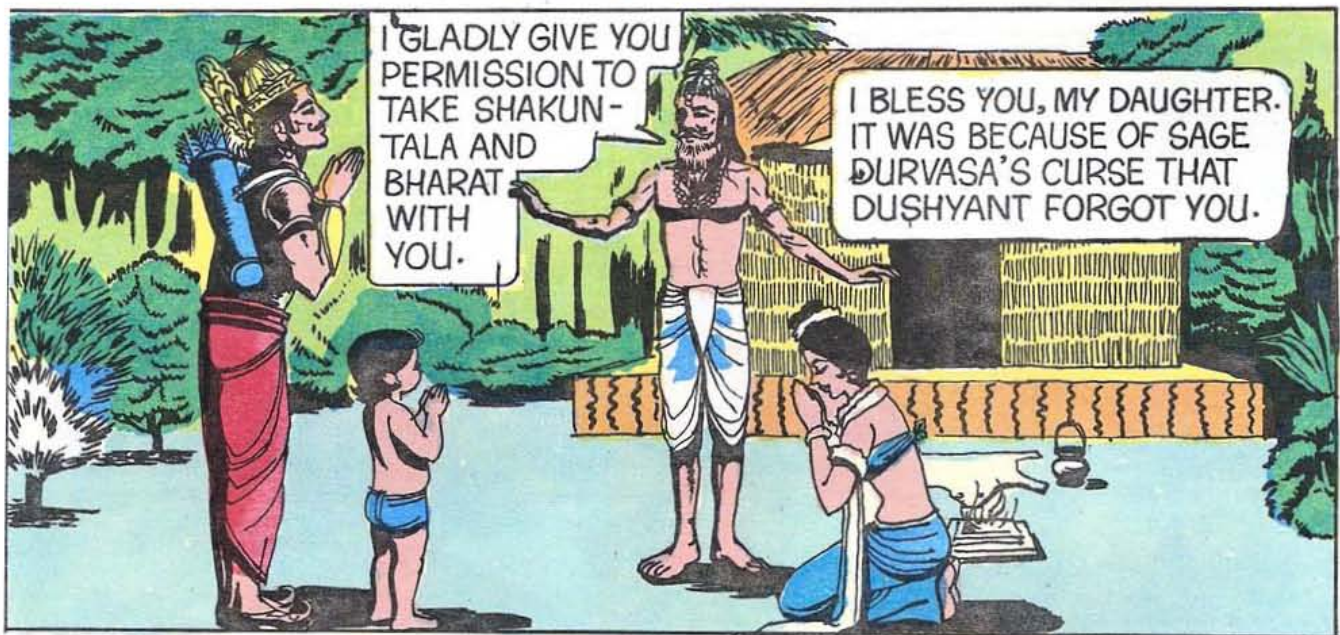


THE KING REACHED OUT FOR THE AMULET.









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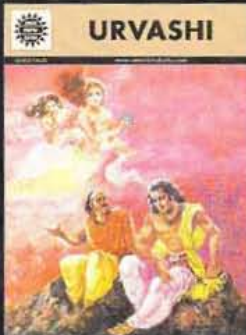


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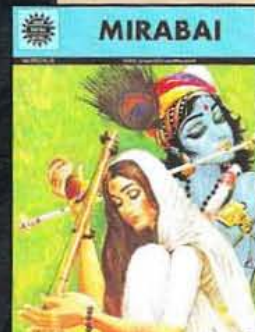
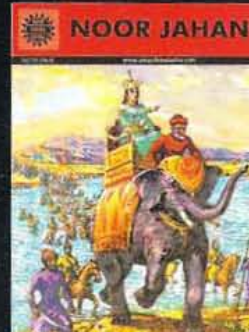
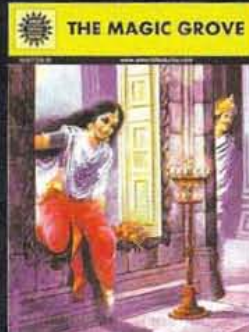
SHAKUNTALA

When King Dushyanta first saw Shakuntala, he was struck by her incomparable beauty and gentle character. He made her his wife and vowed to take her back to his palace. But a curse from the sage Durvasa erased her memory so completely from his mind that he failed to recognise her. Much later, when the curse was broken he realised his mistake but it was too late....or so it seemed to be. The story of Shakuntala first appeared in the Mahabharata. It was later adapted into a play by the Sanskrit dramatist and poet, Kalidasa.

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